

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT

~~Of application~~ A ball joint for suspension and steering systems and/or stabilizer bars which are located in the vicinity of a source of excessive heat generation such as brake, ~~is basically incorporated~~ is provided with a thermal protector ~~[[49]]~~ integrated in the ball joint which presents a series of flexible radial plates ~~[[40]]~~ on its upper face defining interiorly a circular opening ~~[[41]]~~ which is attached to a connecting ring ~~[[42]]~~ previously fixed to the neck ~~[[7]]~~ of the dust boot ~~[[6]]~~ by overinjection or pressure and/or gluing, so that the thermal protector ~~[[49]]~~ covers the dust boot ~~[[6]]~~ in order to protect it from the high temperatures generated in the surrounding area.